

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:454
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2007
CRIME AGAINST WILDLIFE
Masood Shri Rasheed

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the crime against wildlife has taken the form of an organised crime in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to check this;
- (c) whether the activities of international smugglers have also increased recently in India;
- (d) if so, the steps taken to check it;
- (e) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a new law to check the crime against wildlife;
- (f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be formulated; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 454 DUE FOR REPLY ON 07.05.07 REGARDING `CRIME AGAINST WILDLIFE`.

(a)&(b) A few incidents of wildlife crime and illegal trade in wildlife have been brought to the notice of the Government. Considering the lucrative prices and demand for wildlife products in the clandestine international markets, the possibility of organized form of wildlife crime in the country cannot be ruled out.

The steps taken by the Government against wildlife crime are as under:

- (i) The Central Government has enacted the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime.
- (ii) Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (iii) The 2006 amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act provides for the establishment of a multi-disciplinary Wildlife Crime Control Bureau with the main objective of collecting and collating intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities and to disseminate the same to state and other enforcement agencies for immediate action so as to apprehend the criminals and to establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank.
- (iv) India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates the international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.
- (v) Regional and sub-regional offices of have been set up at the main export centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.
- (c)&(d) No reports have been brought to the notice of the Government indicating that the activities of international smugglers have increased recently in India. However, the following initiatives have been taken to strengthen international efforts against wildlife crime:
 - (a) India is a signatory to many international conventions responsible for the protection of biodiversity and its habitat, that include the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
 - (b) India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.
 - (c) India is also a founder member of the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking.

(e),(f) The existing Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made &(g) more stringent against wildlife related offences. The 2006 amendment provides for the establishment of a multi-disciplinary Wildlife Crime Control Bureau for effective enforcement of the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act. Hence, there is no proposal to formulate a new law to check the crime against wildlife.